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1-12. (canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled~~ A longitudinal guiding device comprising at least two rolling or sliding bodies and at least three profiled guiding elements, each guiding element being formed of sheet metal for guiding operations [,] and comprising a piece of sheet metal having two projecting edge flanges on a longitudinal edge thereof, the two projecting edge flanges being formed by a profiling gaps method performed in the longitudinal edge so that at least one surface of the edge flanges has a greater hardness than a portion of the piece of sheet metal on which no profiling gaps method has been performed, at least one surface of the profiled guiding element forming a guiding surface for at least one each rolling or sliding body or sliding body being disposed between two guiding surfaces, at least one of the two guiding surfaces being formed by at least one surface of one of the at least three profiled guiding elements.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein at least one surface of the edge flanges forms the at least one guiding surface and has a greater hardness than a portion of the piece of sheet metal on which no profiling gaps method has been performed.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein a surface area lying between the two edge flanges and/or a partial area of interior sides facing each other of the two edge flanges forms the at least one guiding surface.

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16. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein a surface area lying between the two edge flanges at least partially forms the at least one guiding surface.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein interior sides facing each other of the two edge flanges at least partially form guiding surfaces.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein the at least one guiding surface is cross-sectionally arc-shaped and works together with rolling bodies that are spherical in shape.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein the two edge flanges are arranged symmetrically to a plane in a center of the profiled guiding element.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein the two edge flanges are arranged asymmetrically to a plane in a center of the profiled guiding element.

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21. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein an exterior side of at least one of the two edge flanges forms the at least one guiding surface.
22. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 14, wherein the two edge flanges at least partially surround a sliding body that forms an internal joint element.
23. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 22, wherein both of the interior sides of the two edge flanges face each other and form the guiding surface and lie on a common surface of a cylinder.
24. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the guiding operations include at least one of longitudinal guiding operations and pivoting guiding operations.
25. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the surface area lying between the two edge flanges and/or a partial area of the interior sides facing each other of the two edge flanges forms at least one guiding surface for the at least one rolling body or sliding body.

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26. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein a surface area lying between the two edge flanges at least partially forms the at least one guiding surface.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein interior sides facing each other of the two edge flanges at least partially form guiding surfaces.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the at least one guiding surface is cross-sectionally arc-shaped and works together with rolling bodies that are spherical in shape.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the two edge flanges are arranged symmetrically to a plane in a center of the the profiled guiding element.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the two edge flanges are arranged asymmetrically to a plane in a center of the the profiled guiding element.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein an exterior side of at least one of the two edge flanges forms the at least one guiding surface.

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32. (Currently Amended) ~~Profiled guiding element~~ A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, wherein the two edge flanges at least partially surround a sliding body that forms an internal joint element.

33. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, comprising at least two rolling or sliding bodies, two of the at least two rolling or sliding bodies being disposed between respective first guiding surfaces in first and second profiled guiding elements, each first guiding surface being formed by a surface area lying between two edge flanges of the profiled guiding elements, and respective second guiding surfaces each formed by respective surfaces of a third profiled guiding element.

34. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 33, wherein the second guiding surfaces comprise two edge flanges of the third profiled guiding element.

35. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 33, wherein at least one of the second guiding surfaces comprises a depression in a surface of the third profiled guiding element.

36. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 35, wherein the depression is formed in a surface of at least one of the two edges flanges of the third profiled guiding element.

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37. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 36, wherein the third profiled guiding element has two edge flanges that each have first and second sides, the first sides of each edge flange merging into each other and the second sides of the two edge flanges being discrete, one of the second guiding surfaces being formed by a first side of one of the two edge flanges and the other of the second guiding surfaces being formed by a second side of the other one of the two edge flanges.

38. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 33, wherein the third profiled guiding element has two edge flanges that each have first and second sides, the first sides of each edge flange merging into each other and the second sides of the two edge flanges being discrete, one of the second guiding surfaces being formed by a first side of one of the two edge flanges and the other of the second guiding surfaces being formed by a second side of the other one of the two edge flanges.

39. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 33, comprising a third rolling or sliding body, the third rolling or sliding body being disposed between a first guiding surface in a fourth profiled guiding elements and a third guiding surface formed at a transition between a longitudinal edge of the piece of sheet metal from which the third profiled guiding element is formed and one of the two edge flanges of the third profiled guiding element.

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40. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 33, wherein the first and second profiled guiding elements are arranged in a generally Y-shape at a longitudinal end of a single piece of sheet metal.

40. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 13, comprising at least two rolling or sliding bodies, two of the at least two rolling or sliding bodies being disposed between respective first guiding surfaces in first and second profiled guiding elements, each first guiding surface being formed by a surface area lying between two edge flanges of the profiled guiding elements, and second guiding surfaces each formed by one or more sheet metal rails.

41. (New) A longitudinal guiding device according to claim 40, wherein the first and second profiled guiding elements are arranged in a generally Y-shape at a longitudinal end of a single piece of sheet metal.